December 8 – 14, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 48 www.associatednewspapers.net

Canton considering license plate cameras

There will be more public and board of trustee discussion regarding privacy concerns before proposed license plate reader cameras are installed in Canton Township, noted Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham Hudak.

The devices, proposed by Canton police officials, would be funded by a $40,710 grant from the Bureau of Justice, were described as an investigative tool in instances of retail fraud. Police have proposed installing the LPRs as the cameras are called, at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road where several big box stores are located. The devices photograph vehicles and record license plate numbers along with the date, time and the make, model and color of the vehicle as it passes, officials said. The cameras do not record or photograph the driver or occupants of the vehicle or provide any other information. More information is available to police, however, through a secondary data search, if warranted. The information is stored and managed by police and can be shared with other law enforcement agencies.

> *Township officials were concerned with privacy issues regarding the LPRs.*

The license plate numbers can be compared to a list compiled by law enforcement agencies of vehicles involved with a crime. Police said the cameras would be useful in locating wanted subjects, stolen vehicles, amber alerts, missing persons or even an individual on a terrorist watch list. They would be used in Canton for traffic enforcement, stolen vehicles and other instances and would provide 24 hour, seven day a week recording at the area.

More than 30,000 vehicles use the Beck and Michigan Avenue area every day, and this is the highest area of retail fraud in the township, according to Canton Police Capt. Mike Kennedy, who explained the use of cameras to the board of trustees during a meeting last month. Located in the area are Home Depot, Walmart and Target along with numerous other retailers.

Canton police have already used the LPR system in a test last May near Haggerty and Joy roads, Kennedy said. The camera was used to locate a suspect in a sexual conduct incident and a man with a third drunk driving charge who hit a gas pump with his vehicle.

Township officials were concerned with privacy issues regarding the LPRs. Township Clerk Michael Siegrist said while he felt the cameras were a useful tool in controlling the retail fraud which occurs in the specific area proposed for the cameras. He cautioned, however, that he would favor a targeted approach and would not favor any situation where there would be LPRs at every street corner.

"We're not surveilling neighborhoods," he said. Trustees questioned the accessibility of the data collected and asked if it would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act rules. Trustee Sommer Foster suggested more discussion and community involvement was necessary. She said current concerns about privacy and cyber security were prevalent.

Police officials acknowledged the controversial nature of the devices with regard to privacy issues but noted the LPRs are in use in multiple nearby and surrounding communities, and by Michigan State Police.

Graham-Hudak closed the discussion noting that the issue will come back before the board in a public meeting before any further action is taken.

Hometown heroes

For more than two decades, the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club has honored members of the city and township public safety departments with Officer of the Year awards. Last Friday, before a large audience of friends and local officials, award winners received their official plaques recognizing the exemplary service. For the first time this year, members of the Department of Public Service were also honored for their contributions to the community. Winners and the presenters this year were Matthew Hartman, a paramedic with Huron Valley Ambulance presented by Karl Rock; James Baron a City of Plymouth firefighter EMT who could not attend the event was presented by Fire Chief Matt Samhat; City of Plymouth Police Ofc. Jon Hiemstra presented by Police Chief Al Cox; Plymouth Township Police Ofc. Brad Vaughan presented by Police Chief James Knittel; Plymouth Township Firefighter Adam Guinn presented by Chief Patrick Conely; City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Service Assistant Director Adam Gerlach whose department head DMS Director and Assistant City Manager Chris Porman could not attend and Plymouth Township Department of Public Works Service Tech II James Bartlett presented by DPW Director Patrick Fellrath.

Community mourns death of Andrew Spisak, Jr.

The death of former Deputy Mayor Andrew J. Spisak, Jr. was mourned last week by members of the Westland community where he had served as a longtime planning commissioner, member of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, a member of the Wayne Westland Credit Union Board of Directors and one of the first police officers in the city.

Mr. Spisak died Nov. 25 just prior to his 88th birthday. He was born Dec. 13, 1934 to the late Andrew Senior and Agnes Spisak. He served as deputy mayor during the terms of two former mayors of the city.

Mr. Spisak served as a police officer for more than 25 years working in both Wayne and Westland, before becoming an officer of the 18th District Court where he served for more than 10 years. Mr. Spisak retired several times, his family said, only to return to another position serving the community.

He was a member of the Radio Gang band and served as lead singer and emcee as the group entertained the senior community. Mr. Spisak was well-known throughout the community for his gregarious personality, his devotion to his family and his years of dedicated service to his community.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Lee Gorrell Spisak; children Tammy (Dean) Perusse, Rick (Tracy) Gowan, Teresa (Steve) Pynn, Andrea (Dan) Mohr and Tony (Amy) Spisak; eight grandsons, Anthony, Joshua, Andre Jacob, Austin Jackson, Andrew, Austin Gunnar, Richard, Tyler, and Zach; two granddaughters, Andrea Jade and Brandice, and a multitude of dear friends.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Uht Funeral Home. Westland.

Andrew Spisak, Jr.

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 48

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees again corrected and disputed information published by Trustee Peggy Morgan in a local newspaper.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 48

Preventing Elder Fraud will be the topic of a one-hour Lunch and Learn discussion in Canton Township beginning at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 14.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 75, No. 48

Inkster was one of the two police departments that did not comply with a request from the officer of the Wayne County Prosecutor for an updated Giglio list of officers.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 48

The concept plan for the Northville downtown pedestrian area received a positive response during a meeting Nov. 29 at city hall.

See page 3.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 48

Michigan National Guard officers continue to search for a soldier who went AWOL (Absent Without Official Leave) in October.

See page 5.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 137, No. 48

The large crowd who waited for the special appearance of the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Romulus last week weren't disappointed.

See page 2.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 48

Santa and Mrs. Claus were the stars of the show last week when the City of Wayne officially welcomed them during the annual tree lighting festivities.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 48

Westland employees were treated to a special appreciation luncheon by Mayor William R. Wild last week.

See page 4.

Inkster - Romulus

Crowds welcome Holiday Train, Santa to Romulus

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train passed through Romulus last week during the annual tree lighting ceremony in the city.

The crowd who waited for the special appearance of the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Romulus last week weren't disappointed.

The appearance of the lighted train was part of the annual city Tree Lighting Ceremony when Mayor Robert McCraight and officials welcomed Santa to the community. The city constructed bleachers and set up fire pits along the train tracks, awaiting the special appearance. The Romulus High School band and the Girl Scouts entertained the crowds awaiting the arrival of the special railway sight. Stops along the tracks by the elaborately decorated train which collects funds for multiple charities, had been postponed during the pandemic making the brief sighting in Romulus even more special. Audience members sipped hot chocolate while awaiting the arrival of the brightly lit holiday rail vehicle. While the train did not stop as it does in some areas where entertainers present a holiday show, it did slow as it passed in Romulus on the way from Windsor to Illinois, allowing viewers a good look at the decorations.

Also on site was the holiday decorated school bus where residents donated food for the Romulus Helping Hand food pantry. The bus was sponsored by the 0312 Foundation, and founder Nashawn Craig was among those who waiting for the holiday train.

McCraight offered a special thanks to everyone who attended the Tree Lighting Ceremony and "those who braved the cold into the early hours of Friday morning." He and city officials thanked the staff of the Romulus DPW, members of the Romulus Police Department, Romulus firefighters, the city Community Services Department staff, Downtown Romulus, the Michigan DDA Recreation Commission, the Romulus High School Band, Girl Scout Troop 77448, Propane Services of Romulus, the 0312 Foundation, the food and craft vendors on site and Santa for their participation and help in the event.

Inkster fails to submit Giglio list to county prosecutor

> *Some information may not be publicly disclosed because the matter is under investigation.*

Inkster was one of the two police departments that did not comply with a request from the office of the Wayne County Prosecutor for an updated Giglio list of officers.

The Giglio or Brady list is a compilation of names and details of any law enforcement officers who have had sustained incidents of untruthfulness, criminal convictions, candor issue or some other type of issue placing their credibility into question.

A Giglio letter is a document written by a prosecutor when he or she finds out about a law enforcement officer who may not be credible on the stand. With this documented lack of credibility, the law enforcement officer is very unlikely to be used as a witness in a trial.

"All Wayne County law enforcement agencies are aware that they have a continuing obligation to provide the Wayne County Prosecutors Office (WCPO) with all relevant facts as they become aware of them. After receiving the information from police agencies and other sources, WCPO makes a decision regarding disclosure. It should be noted that the Inkster and Ecorse Police Departments failed to comply with our requests," noted Prosecutor Kym Worthy in a prepared statement.

"In some cases, the conduct or facts may not be properly disclosable. Some information may not be publicly disclosed because the matter is under investigation, or legally protected by privacy laws or privileges. These disclosures are made during the discovery process in criminal cases," the statement continued.

"We think it is important to send this out to our prosecutors and defense attorneys. There are currently 74 officers on the list. In advance of this release WCPO has notified all police agencies who have a current or former officer on the list. We are continuing to take the additional step of releasing the list to the public because in an era of criminal justice reform, it just makes sense. We plan to continue to review, update and release this list," Worthy said.

The list contained the names of no currently serving police officers in any of the communities served by The Eagle.

Welcome

The newest voice to be heard answering calls for emergency service in Romulus is that of new Romulus Police Department 911 dispatcher Charisma Miller. The department welcomed Miller to the facility recently and noted that her four years of experience with the Detroit 911 dispatch center would serve residents in Romulus needing emergency service with efficiency and professionalism.

Helping out

The Romulus police Thanksgiving Food Drive received a generous contribution from the Candyland Academy Learning Center recently. Romulus Cpl. Byron Paisley and Ofc. Bryce Moon visited the center to pick up the donations and offer personal thanks to Candace Walynn Dukes-Bragg (Ms. Candace) for her generosity and meet with some of the students.

NORTHVILLE

Planners reveal downtown design proposal

The concept plan for the Northville downtown pedestrian area received a positive response from audience members during a meeting Nov. 29 at city hall.

The plan presented by representatives from Grissim, Metz and Andriese (GMA) was welcomed as a positive step forward in transforming the closed sections of Main and Center streets into a promenade with interactive zones that would attract people to shops, restaurants and new seating areas.

The plan includes linear bands of activity. The center of the street at 24-feet wide would be the promenade for pedestrians to use, with plenty of room for strollers, walkers and wheelchairs. Sixteen feet within that 24-foot space can be used for emergency access for police, fire and EMT and would not have any tables, chairs, structures or displays. Within the promenade, there will be zones of 8-foot-wide sections for varied seating arrangements.

Eight-foot wide sections from the merchants' doors to the curb would provide another walkway. Beyond that, varying sections of 13 to 18 feet would be considered merchant space, where restaurants could set up outdoor dining, and retailers could display merchandise. Merchant space would include the 8-foot-wide parallel parking spaces. GMA proposed decking be placed over the parking spaces and match up with the sidewalk to provide a platform for outdoor dining structures. This also eliminates the need to remove curbs, representatives explained.

The seating areas would be varied to encourage different uses and activities. High-top tables and chairs would face the promenade, a convenience for a "to-go" meal, a drink, work on a laptop or watch people. Larger outdoor couches and chairs would invite groups to linger and share stories. Bistro-style tables and chairs could be moved to wherever they are needed, according to the proposed design.

Lighting plans include projecting light patterns on the street (similar to holiday light projections on a house), stringing lights from horizontal beams mounted on buildings, and spotlighting the historic buildings with street-based lights that glow upward. Another plan is to remove the traffic light at Main and Center and replace it with a stop sign, using the light pole for decorative lighting or hanging banners for events and as an advertising venue for area businesses. The intersection may also have a curved portion of road - achieved through brickscape - to indicate the main entrance.

The streets would be activated by both programmed activities and organic entertainment, such as playing corn hole, doing group yoga, or playing chess at a bistro table. Musicians and street performers would have a zone for performances in addition to the stage at Town Square. Food trucks would be part of the streetscape for special events. In the winter, there could be an ice rink at Town Square.

Structures are proposed to have plexiglass roofs so the building names can still be viewed. They would be more uniform with removable side walls for cold weather and a distinctive, decorative siding approximately 4 feet tall that screens chair legs from the street. Structures would be decorated for the seasons.

Downtown District Authority Director Lori Ward said, "This next phase for downtown Northville is a unique opportunity to provide an experience and setting that doesn't exist in our neighboring communities. It will be an even better place to bring the kids, go out for a drink with friends, or just hang out.

"There's so much versality with the space. We aim to make it a destination, a place where there's something happening every day of the week, every month of the year. Some of that will be programmed but residents and visitors will find ways to make it their own 'go-to' place," she added.

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Sumpter - Westland

Trustee's false statements prompt board criticism

In what appears to be an ongoing battle against misinformation, members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees again corrected and disputed information published by Trustee Peggy Morgan in a local newspaper.

Township Supervisor Tim Bowman noted that Morgan had claimed in a letter that an investigation into a lewd and threatening phone call made to him by losing candidate for treasurer Sheena Barnes had been closed and no charges filed. Bowman was noticeably upset by the false claim that no charges were being filed and Morgan's suggestion that he should be charged with filing a false police report.

"That is all lies. Me and my family are the victims. You wrote these lies. Just lies," Bowman said.

"Where did you get that information. It's just garbage and I'm tired of it."

Trustee Matt Oddy was also critical of Morgan's false claims regarding Bowman and her assertion that the board was "sabotaging" the water department.

"We have a board member publishing incorrect information about the supervisor's case. This is unbelievable that a township official would do this. This has to be dealt with," he said. "Do you know the investigation is closed? You lied. It is unethical and irresponsible for a board member to comment on an ongoing investigation and making statements that are untrue," Oddy said. "As a board member we are supposed to conduct ourselves at a higher ethical level."

> *We have a board member publishing incorrect information about the supervisor's case. This is unbelievable that a township official would do this.*

Morgan refused to comment on the criticism when Oddy repeatedly demanded to know where she got the information.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke also demanded an answer from Morgan as to the source of the false claims she made. He addressed her and the board asking to whom she spoke and pointedly asking her for the source of the information she published. He said the criminal case against the former candidate was at the office of the prosecutor and was not closed.

Again, Morgan declined to comment.

Oddy said Morgan's claims were patently false as was her charge that the members of the board were attempting to "sabotage" the treasurer's office by the re-assignment of a clerk.

Trustee Don LaPorte attempted to calm the situation suggesting that the board meeting was not the venue for the discussion which prompted Oddy to explain that this was a matter of the unethical conduct of a board member and the place for the discussion was at the board level.

"I think every board member should be appalled at this conduct," he said. "She can't and won't defend her conduct and apparently thinks it is a big joke." He added that Morgan's conduct was "victim bashing."

"You're making a determination of who's guilty," he told Morgan, "Without including the truth."

Special appreciation

Mayor William R. Wild is all smiles during the Employee Appreciation Day Luncheon last week. The event was designed to thank each employee's commitment and dedication to Westland residents. Certificates were presented to every employee, and plaques were given to more than 35 dedicated staff members who have served the community for 20 years and more including Deputy Mayor Michael J. Reddy, above at right, and Director of Community Media Craig Welkenbach, above, at left of Wild.

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
2022 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The Sumpter Township Board of Review will be conducting the 2022 December Board of Review and will convene in the Sumpter Township Hall at 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm

This is a correction Board of Review and will cover all clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact during the meeting.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 461-6201 ext. 2236.

Esther Hurst, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: December 8, 2022

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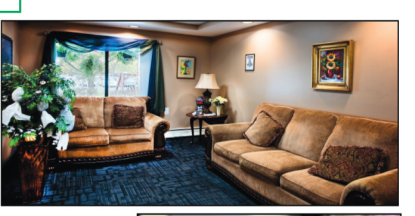

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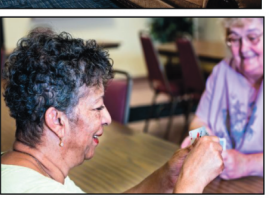

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59. Auctions

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DECEMBER 14, 2022
10:00 AM

2010 DODGE
3D4PG5FVXAT257460
2017 CHEVROLET
2GNALCEK7H6266097
1998 CHEVROLET
1GCEC19R6WE110674
2013 CHEVROLET
1G11D5RR1DF109893
2007 HONDA
2HJYK16597H524349
2004 HONDA
1HGCM56384A067673
2006 FORD
1FAHP34N66W214475
2000 JEEP
1J4FF48S9YL235281
2000 TOYOTA
JT2BG22K6Y0399662
2009 FORD
1FAHP35N39W199498
2000 TRAILER
B994017
1998 DODGE
3B7KF26Z6WM274690

On Wednesday, December, 14th, 2022 at 11: 30 am, Great Lakes Towing Impound and Recovery Division located at 42350 Van Born Rd, Belleville, Mi, County of Wayne, will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2009 JEEP
1J8GR48K09C504067
2011 WABASH
1JJV532D2BL376698
The above vehicles are impounded through the Canton Township Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Canton Township Police Department within 48 hours of the sale. There is a $100 buyers fee paid additionally per vehicle made payable to the Canton Township Police Department.

2005 CHRYSLER
2C4GP54L15R349516
2007 CHEVROLET
1GBDV13107D119123
2004 FORD
1FTPX14524NB11535
2014 FORD
1FADP3J20EL263566
2011 FORD
2FMDK4KC5BBB12266
The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Livonia Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Livonia Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2005 FORD
1FAFP24195G157373
The above vehicles are impounded through the Dearborn Heights Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Dearborn Heights Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2005 HONDA
1HGCM567X5A191013
2020 HYUNDAI
5NMS5CAD6LH178190
2010 VOLKSWAGEN
3VWRX7AJ6AM059763
2010 VOLKSWAGEN
WVWML7AN2AE505036
The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Dearborn Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Dearborn Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2016 FORD
3FA6P0HD9GR223800
2007 FORD
1FAHP34N97W356756
The above vehicles are impounded through the Plymouth Township Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Plymouth Township Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

All Vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the conclusion of the auction.

On Friday, December, 23rd, 2022 at 9: 00 am, Great Lakes Towing Impound and Recovery Division located at 42350 Van Born Rd, Belleville, Mi, County of Wayne, will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2001 FORD
1FAFP56S81G219833
The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Wayne Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Wayne Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2014 CHRYSLER
1C3CCBAB9EN125058
2019 RAM
1C6SRFRT9KN621054
The above vehicles are impounded through the Redford Township Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Redford Township Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2008 FORD
1ZVHT80N985191031
2009 MERCURY
4M2CU81G39KJ10449
2012 FORD
1ZVBP8EM1C5286797
The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Westland Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Westland Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2003 SATURN
1G8AJ52F23Z121039
The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Romulus Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Romulus Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

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CANTON - PLYMOUTH

Cherry Hill gallery to exhibit artworks

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will exhibit the featured works of artist Janet L. Kondziela in an entitled "The World of Janet," in The Gallery at Cherry Hill through Jan. 3.

Kondziela said she is inspired by the world around her and her exhibition displays this through portraits, still lifes, and landscapes. Kondziela believes "these days, my interest is in capturing the essence of a moment, the play of light on a surface, the beauty of an ordinary object or the character of a person."

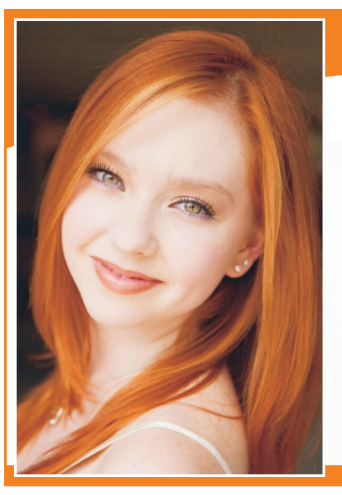
This Dearborn native was encouraged to pursue a life as an artist at the age of 8 after she was given an assignment to paint a life-sized portrait of "what we want to be when we grew up". At the time, Kondziela wanted to be a nun. However, after looking at her finished portrait she recounts, "when I saw how beautiful the colors looked next to each other and what a pure joy it was to place them on the paper, I immediately changed my mind as to my future, from nun to artist and never looked back."

A variety of Kondziela's works, including easel paintings, are held internationally in private collections as well as Postal Murals on display at the U.S. Post Office in Detroit and the Postal Service Great Lakes Area Office in Illinois. She is presently a member of the Oil Painters of America, the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, the Downriver Arts Association, and the Northville Art House. In addition, she currently serves as president of the Artists' Society of Dearborn.

> *This art exhibit at The Gallery at Cherry Hill is free and open to the public.*

This art exhibit at The Gallery at Cherry Hill is free and open to the public during gallery hours: from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday from and from 4 until 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., during all public performances or by special appointment arranged via email to elli.fassois@cantonmi.gov.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.For more information call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.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AWOL?
Return of soldier scarecrow is sought by National Guard

Michigan National Guard officers continue to search for a soldier who went AWOL (Absent Without Official Leave) in October.

The soldier, not known for intelligence or courage, was last seen tightly zip tied to a post in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth as part of the annual Halloween scarecrow display. Dressed in an authentic National Guard uniform and sporting his bulletproof vest, the soldier went missing over a weekend, according to Michigan Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. Gabrielle Lynne, who led the design and construction of the straw-filled creation.

Lynne said wearing the National Guard uniform is a "big deal" and that she was excited to bring her sons to downtown Plymouth to see the quasi-soldier on display. She said she was sure the authentic uniform and vest would draw a lot of attention from crowds, but she was very disappointed that it had been taken.

Lynne wants the uniform returned, with or without the scarecrow stuffing. She said if whoever took the creation wants to wear a uniform, they should join the National Guard and get a uniform with their own name on it.

She said this kind of behavior is exactly the kind of conduct service with the National Guard often helps young people overcome.

"Young people deserve a second chance and one mistake doesn't make who you are as a person," Lynne told local news outlets. "I really would love to talk to that person. Really."

This authentically uniformed Michigan National Guard scarecrow is still missing after being taken from the scarecrow display in Kellogg Park.

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Elder fraud prevention will be Lunch and Learn topic

Preventing Elder Fraud will be the topic of a Lunch and Learn discussion in Canton Township.

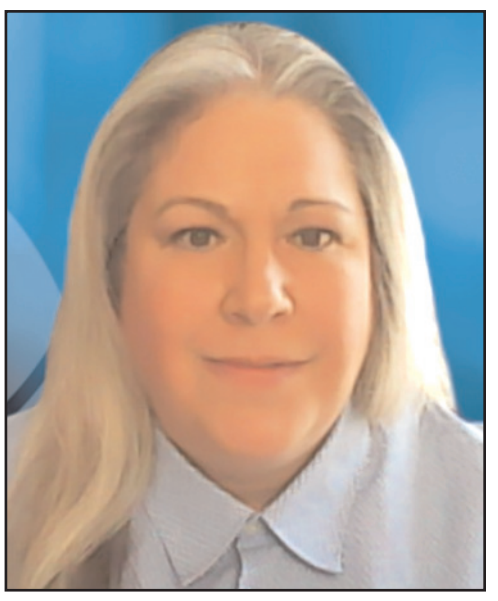
The one-hour event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 14.

Organizers said statistics demonstrate that an increasing number of individuals are falling victim to scams. One factor is the ability of scammers to be highly adaptable and who can mimic legitimate communications from romantic partners, family members, tech support staff and government employees. One group particularly affected by this issue is the elderly.

Law enforcement officials said homeowners with healthy financial savings, good credit scores and a trusting nature often prove to be attractive targets for scammers.

Presenters will include Pam Sargent, a fraud investigator with Community Financial Credit Union and Kristen LaForest, the community outreach and engagement coordinator for Community Financial Credit Union.

Elder fraud in on the rise and resulted in more than a billion dollars in losses in 2021, statistics indicate. The Lunch and Learn session will include a description of the scams targeting older adults and what to do when you or a loved one are a victim of a fraud. Ways to prevent these scams will also be discussed. The session will take place at the Canton Administration Building in the first floor board room at 1150 Canton Center Road. There is no cost for the session but pre-registration at (734) 495-1200 is requested and organizers suggest those attending bring a lunch or a snack, .


Pam Sargent

Kristen LaForest

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Wayne

Students are 'engineering' future careers

Several young women in the Wayne-Westland schools are engineering their futures.

The students, 15 in sixth grade and two in seventh grade, are part of the Engineering Society of Detroit Girls in Engineering Academy, created to improve academic achievement and increase interest in engineering among girls. The goal of the program, a spokesman noted, is to close the gender gap in engineering. The first three years of the program are for middle school students to help prepare them academically for high school with a focus on mathematics and engineering courses.

The 17 Wayne Westland students are enrolled in classes that provide math and science enrichment, engineering and computer science concepts, English/language arts comprehension, hands-on project-based STEM activities, mentoring, field trips to industry, and engineering career exploration.

The second-year students stayed on the Eastern Michigan University campus for the summer where they took classes and went on field trips to GM, Lear and Marathon. They met female engineers, learned about their companies and jobs, and worked on an engineering challenge. At Lear, the girls worked in teams to assemble a car seat, learning about tolerances, efficiency, and quality.

> *The goal of the program, a spokesman noted, is to close the gender gap in engineering.*

"We hope through our program the students will be able to determine their passion and interests by high school graduation and to provide them with the skills they need to excel in their chosen path," said Alexandra Lofton, program manager, Girls in Engineering Academy.

"In the future, the girls can expect exposure to multiple campuses, including LTU, EMU, OU, and CMU, with more in the works. Engineering courses will continue from chemical, biomedical, and electrical engineering courses - all with hands-on projects. Our instructors are all STEM college students and primarily female to provide our students with role models in their fields - and to show them girls can work in these fields," she said.

HO, HO, HO

Wayne welcomes Santa, Mrs. Claus with parade, music and fireworks

Santa and Mrs. Claus were the stars of the show last week when the City of Wayne officially welcomed the holiday visitors to the community during the annual tree lighting festivities.

Hundreds of children and parents were on hand to welcome Santa and whisper their wishes for Christmas morning into his interested ears. Each child who met with the jolly elf received a gift, courtesy of the city. Making the festivities more special were members of the All Star Patriots Dance Team under the direction of Chelsea Crawford who participated in the parade along with members of the Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Marching Band under the direction of Dave Mety. Also on hand were Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and several other Christmas characters. Participating in the festivities were members of both the police and fire departments of the city along with Police Chief Ryan Strong and Fire Chief Mike Stradtner. Members of the city Department of Public Works and the Wayne Downtown Development Authority were also involved in the event.

Hill Crest Bible Church under the direction of Pastor Seth McDonald provided the gifts, fireworks, cookies, hot chocolate and assistance in planning and securing donations and volunteers for the event.

Officials also thanked members of the Wayne Historical Society and the Wayne Historical Commission, Tyler Moll, Lisa Kubany, Lori Gouin and Ed Queen. Mayor John Rhaesa and members of the city council were also on hand and participated in the holiday celebration which also received support from Kurts Caps which provided the fire pits; Parkside Credit Union, The Wayne Dispatch,

The Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, Fun Food Express and the Christmas carolers and quartets who provided entertainment.

Santa was welcomed with a parade, fireworks, hot chocolate and cookies during the official tree lighting in the City of Wayne last week.

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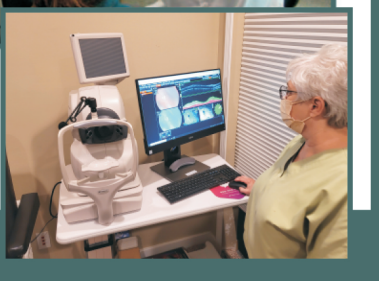

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